

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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R 201106 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8874

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 3201

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS: BEYOND THE CONSTITUTION

REF: LAHORE 404; ISLAMABAD 2993

BEGIN SUMMARY

PARLIAMENTARY DEADLOCKS IN FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN PROVINCES CONTINUE INTO THIRD MONTH. OPPOSITION COALITION IN LATTER MAINTAINS ITS MAJORITY WHILE IN FORMER COMPETING PRO- GOVERNMENT GROUPS UNABLE TO COME TO AGREEMENT. BHUTTO MAY CALL SNAP ELECTIONS IN HOPE, INTER ALIA PEOPLES' PARTY CAN IMPROVE ITS STANDING IN TWO SMALL PROVINCES. END SUMMARY

1. NATIONAL " CONSTITUTION WEEK" FESTIVITIES CELEBRATING PASSAGE OF CONSTITUTION CONCLUDED APRIL 19. NEW CONSTITUTION MUST COME INTO EFFECT PRIOR TO AUGUST 15 ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CAN DECIDE ON EARLIER DATE. IN INTERIM PERIOD, NUMBER OF ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN. FOREMOST ARE SELECTION OF SENATE BY PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT BY COMBINED SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER BY ASSEMBLY.

2. PROBLEMS IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER:

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BHUTTO MAY BE RELUCTANT TO HAVE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES SELECT SENATE FOR TIME BEING SINCE PEOPLES' PARTY AND ITS ALLIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DATE TO FORM GOVERNMENTS IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER PROVINCES. PARLIAMENTARY DEADLOCKS IN BOTH PROVINCES PROBABLY ONE OF TWO MAJOR TOPICS ON AGENDA AT APRIL 20 GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE IN CAPITAL ( OTHER WILL BE APRIL 17 INDIA- BANGLADESH OFFER ON POWS). IN FRONTIER, PRO- GOVERNMENT COALITION CLAIMS, PROBABLY CORRECTLY, 21 VOTES OUT OF TOTAL OF 41 ( ONE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY MEMBER RECENTLY DIED). HOWEVER, PRINCIPAL POLITICAL FIGURES IN COALITION APPARENTLY STILL UNABLE RECONCILE THEIR CONFLICTING PERSONAL AMBITIONS. IN BALUCHISTAN, TWELVE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY/ JAMIATUL- ULEMA- I- ISLAM MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY OF 21 PRESENTED BHUTTO APRIL 16 WITH REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE SUMMONING OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY, DEMONSTRATING GOVERNOR BUGTI'S LACK OF SUCCESS IN BREAKING NAP/ JUI MAJORITY. DEADLOCK IN BALUCHISTAN INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSING FOR GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION IMPOSING PRESIDENTIAL RULE IN THAT PROVINCE APPARENTLY EXPIRED APRIL 16. UNCLEAR WHETHER INTERIM CONSTITUTION PROVIDES PRESIDENT WITH AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE PRESIDENTIAL RULE. IN ANY EVENT, NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY, AS WELL AS MANY INDIVIDUALS STILL SUSPICIOUS OF BHUTTO'S INTENTIONS, WILL BE LOOKING TO NEXT GOP ACTION IN BALUCHISTAN PARLIAMENTARY TANGLE AS INDICATOR OF BHUTTO'S INTENTIONS TOWARD OPPOSITION AND HIS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

3. ELECTIONS:

SHOULD BHUTTO DECIDE, AS HE APPEARS TO BE PLANNING, TO HOLD NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN SUMMER OR FALL, HE WILL CERTAINLY AVOID ELECTIONS TO SENATE BY CURRENT PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES GIVEN HIS WEAK POSITION IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER BODIES. TIMING OF ANY ELECTIONS MAY DEPEND ON NUMBER OF CIRCUMSTANCES ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT BHUTTO IDEALLY WOULD PREFER TO HOLD ELECTIONS AFTER SOME POSITIVE MOVEMENT TAKES PLACE ON RETURN OF PAKISTANI PRISONERS- OF WAR. FRESH ELECTIONS WILL MEET OPPOSITION DEMAND AND QUIET CRITICS WHO HAVE POINTED TO BANGLADESH ELECTIONS AS PROPER EXAMPLE OF PARLIAMENTARY

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PROCEDURES. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, NEW ELECTIONS, ON

ASSUMPTION THAT PEOPLES' PARTY WILL AGAIN GAIN LARGE MAJORITY NATIONALLY, WILL MERELY EXTEND LIFE OF PRESENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY ONLY ABOUT ONE YEAR- UNTIL 1978.

4. PRESIDENT:

CURRENT SPECULATION IN CAPITOL AS TO NEW PRESIDENT CENTERS ON DAULTANA, QAIYUM KHAN, AND ASSEMBLY SPEAKER FAZAL ELAHI. CEREMONIAL CHARACTER OF PRESIDENT UNDER NEW CONSTITUTION MAKES THIS SINECURE USEFULLY POLITICALLY ONLY AS MEANS OF REWARDING FAITHFUL ( DAULTANA, ELAHI) OR SIDELINING OTHERWISE TROUBLESOME FIGURE ( QAIYUM).

5. WHILE FUTURE COURSE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES STILL UNCLEAR, ONE RESULT OF APRIL 10 CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT HAS BECOME VERY EVIDENT. GOVERNMENT HAS BY AND LARGE CEASED HERETOFORE RELENTLESS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES. IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS GUIDE, HOWEVER, THIS MAY WELL PROVE TEMPORARY PHENOMENON.

6. FULL TEXT OF NEW CONSTITUTION AND EMBASSY ANALYSIS WILL BE SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM.  
SOBER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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